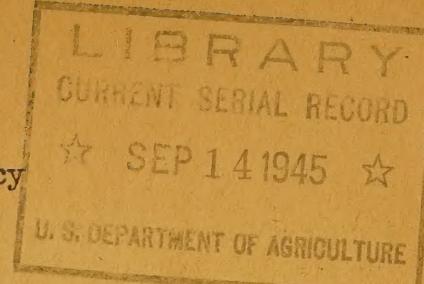


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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Agricultural Adjustment Agency
Washington 25, D. C.



June 11, 1945

DUSTING TO CONTROL LEAF-SPOT AND LEAF-HOPPERS BOOSTS PEANUT YIELDS

(This is the seventh in a series of "Grow More Peanuts per Acre" suggested press releases for joint use by State and county AAA and Extension workers.)

Dusting peanut vines with sulphur or copper-sulphur to control leaf-spot and leaf-hopper is one effective way in which _____ County farmers can help meet wartime needs by growing more peanuts per acre, according to _____, (Chairman of the AAA County Committee). The end of the war in Europe, he (County Agent) said, will not reduce the need for maximum production of peanuts this year; if anything, it will increase it.

Mr. _____ cited 57 recent tests in Georgia in which, on the average, dusting with sulphur increased the yield of peanuts more than 300 pounds per acre. It also increased the value of the peanut hay by keeping the leaves on the vines.

"By a conservative estimate," he said, "dusting increased the return to the farmer at least \$25 per acre after allowing for the cost of materials." Noting that farmers all over the peanut belt have consistently obtained similar results, he added:

"I don't know of any _____ County farmers who couldn't use some extra money. And our boys driving toward Tokyo, civilians here at home, and the hungry people of Europe recently freed from Nazi tyranny sure can use all the extra peanuts we can raise this year."

Dusting, Mr. _____ said, should begin when spots first appear on the lower leaves — usually 60 to 65 days after planting on Spanish peanuts and about 10 days later on Virginias and Runners — or when the leaf-hoppers first become evident. Three to four dustings are recommended at 10- to 14-day intervals. Some authorities in other States recommend dusting at about 14- to 20-day intervals, depending on conditions.

Dusts may be applied when the plants are dry or slightly damp, and sprays when the leaves are dry. Put on the dust when the air is still, usually in early morning or evening. If it rains hard within 24 hours after dusting, the vines should be dusted again right away.

For dusting peanuts, Mr. _____ advised use of power-driven equipment such as is used for cotton or other row crops. He emphasized the importance of reaching the undersides of the leaves. For this reason, he explained, hand dusters are unlikely to be satisfactory. The duster, he said, should be

adjusted so as to cover the whole plant uniformly. Runner varieties, he added, are harder to dust properly than are Spanish, Virginia Bunch, and other upright-growing types.

If dusting material is not available and spraying material is, Mr. _____ said, peanuts can be sprayed instead of dusted. Spraying is less convenient and somewhat more expensive, but it is effective. Of various sprays that have been tested Bordeaux mixture, made by using four pounds of snow copper sulphate and four pounds of hydrated lime to each fifty gallons of water, has proved most practical.

"You should bear one thing in mind when dusting," Mr. _____ warned. "Sulphur dusts are irritating to the eyes. So it is advisable to wear goggles while using them."

Sulphur and copper-sulphur dusts give effective control of leaf-spot and leaf-hoppers, Mr. _____ said, but other treatment may be required in case of severe attacks by velvetbean caterpillars, cutworms, and other pests. He urged any farmer who finds those pests in his peanut field to get in touch with the county agent's office or the State Experiment Station at _____ for information about the most effective means of combatting them.